



Report 07.40
Date 31 January 2007
File E/06/18/03

Committee Environment Committee
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Management

Divisional Manager's report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Environment Management Division and about any matters that have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Managers' reports

The Department Managers' reports, along with the Divisional Accountant's report follow as **Attachment 1**.

3. Wind Energy – Development of a Wind 'Strategy'

At the last meeting of the Environment Committee, it was noted that Councillors expressed a desire that officers investigate the development of a wind resource map of the region. This approach is consistent with recommendations in the report produced by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment in late 2006 *Wind Power, People and Place*, which called on Regional authorities to take a lead with a more proactive strategic approach to wind power. In conjunction with the Water Supply, Parks and Forests Division, we have commenced a scoping exercise around this task, and have undertaken preliminary discussions with Connell Wagner who have the capacity to provide a wind map for the majority of the region. Once prepared, it is proposed that this map be overlaid with various existing GIS layers which would look at potential constraints around those areas where wind energy development may be viable. Once we have completed this work, we will bring the results back to the Committee for consideration. At the completion of this work, the potential development of a wind energy 'strategy' could usefully be discussed. This would require a more strategic approach from Council to identify those areas where it is considered appropriate for wind energy development to be focused.

4. Stormwater Plan of Action

There are two papers in the Committee agenda that relate to the development of the Stormwater Plan of Action. One provides an update on the development of the Plan, gives an overview of how we see it being finalised in the coming months, and identifies what form the plan might take. I am keen that Councillors provide input at the meeting on the direction proposed in the draft Plan.

A second, related paper, provides information in relation to the proposal for a trial delegation of certain functions to the Hutt City Council, for the management of discharges that may potentially affect the stormwater system. This proposal represents the outcome of a significant amount of cooperative work between Greater Wellington and the Hutt City Council. If it proves successful, this trial could provide the template for a longer term arrangement between Greater Wellington and Hutt City, and potentially other Territorial Authorities in the region.

5. John Holmes

Many Councillors may already be aware that John Holmes has announced that he is intending to retire, and will leave the Council at the end of February. John has been with the Council for over 18 years, and during this time has made an enormous contribution to the work of both the Division and Greater Wellington. His farewell function has been scheduled for 28 February, invites to which are extended to all Councillors. Needless to say his skills and experience will be greatly missed, however, we of course wish him well in his future.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the report; and*
- 2. Note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

Nigel Corry

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Attachment 1: Department Managers' Reports